

UMATILLA IRRIGATION COMPANY.

JANUARY 6, 1891.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. WILSON, of Washington, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 12688.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 12688) granting to the Umatilla Irrigation Company the right of way through the Umatilla Indian Reservation, in the State of Oregon, and for other purposes, submit the following report:

That said bill is designed to secure to a large body of land now difficult to cultivate, because of the scarcity of water, facilities for irrigation, and which will not only be the means of reclaiming much land now practically useless for all purposes, but will also largely increase the present yield of agricultural products on extensive farm lands now in cultivation but which are annually diminishing in fertility and productiveness.

The proposed canal will cross the lands of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Oregon, and hence the necessity for this right of way by consent of the general Government. The interest of the Indians, as well as that of the Government, will be better protected by giving to the Secretary of the Interior a supervisory authority over the action of the commission named in said bill, and for this purpose, as well as the better protection of riparian ownership and vested rights, and to enlarge the right of way also, your committee recommend the following amendments to said bill:

Provided, That the diversion or diminution of said waters shall at no time so far exhaust the present streams, or either of them, as to impair vested rights, or to hinder or prevent present users the full enjoyment of said streams, either for power, irrigation, or domestic purposes.

On page 2, line 2, strike out the words "twenty-five" and insert "fifty," and further amend on page 3, line 19, after the word "them," by adding the following:

And said compensation and damages shall be ascertained and adjusted, and all surveys made, pursuant to such regulations as the Secretary of the Interior shall prescribe, and shall be subject to his approval.

And further amend by striking out section six.

With these amendments, your committee recommend that the bill do pass.